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Marine Fisheries Advisory

LOLIGO SQUID TRAWL FISHERY EXTENDED THROUGH JUNE 15, 2004

The *Loligo* squid trawl fishery in Massachusetts waters has been extended an additional 15 days to allow fishermen to continue fishing for squid that migrate into Nantucket and Vineyard Sounds. The Director took this action considering the squid catch rates and low by-catch rates of other species. This action will help local vessels continue to participate in the fishery that is managed under a federal quota on a quarterly basis. Previous years' landings data suggest the spring (April – June) squid quota may not be reached unless continued access is provided to the fishing grounds of Nantucket and Vineyard Sounds.

In some years, the squid fishery in Massachusetts waters has been closed on May 31 to minimize discards of undersize scup and small unmarketable squid. Small scup and squid have yet to appear in the catches in any quantity.

Trawler operators involved in the squid fishery are reminded that as of this date there are no federal trip limits for squid, but there are state-managed daily possession limits for some other species:

- 300 lbs. for scup;
- 200 lbs. for sea bass (Friday and Saturday are closed);
- 100 lbs. for all flounders combined including summer flounder ("fluke").

On June 10th, the directed fluke fishery opens. Vessels targeting fluke will be required to use large mesh (6 ½") and the daily limit is 300 lbs. for vessels using nets. All other gears are allowed 200 lbs.

For more information visit the *Marine Fisheries* web site at: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.